Appl. No.: 10/771,798
Amdt. dated 09/09/2004
Reply to Official Action of August 2, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

Please add dependent Claims 26-31 as follows:

1. (Original) A method for graphically displaying travel information on an electronic map within a network environment, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an information request based on a flexible set of user-defined travel related criteria from a client;

processing the information request to initiate at least one inquiry based on the information request and collecting a plurality of responses from an information server, which gathers information from at least one remote server, to determine a solution set to the information request, wherein the solution set includes at least one of at least one airport, at least one airfare and at least one distance between at least one pair of airports; and

rendering the solution set unto an electronic map overlay for transmission to the client.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of response is provided from at least one of a server and a mainframe computer system.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the flexible set of user-defined travel related criteria is input by a human being on the client and pre-selected at least in part by topic by the client.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein processing the information request includes parsing the information request into a plurality of inquiries for querying a plurality of data tables.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one inquiry is directed to a plurality of data tables generated from a database of information received from at least one of a plurality of information providers.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the electronic map overlay includes directing the solution set to the user that posed the information request.

7. (Original) A system for distributing travel information in a network, the system comprising:

means for providing a travel information request;

means for processing the travel information request to generate an inquiry;

means for collecting a plurality of responses from an information server, which gathers information from at least one remote server, to determine a solution set to the travel information request, wherein the solution set includes at least one of at least one airport, at least one airfare and at least one distance between at least one pair of airports; and

means for processing the solution set to obtain a reply to the travel information request.

8. (Original) A travel information system, comprising:

a request manager for receiving information from information providers to store in a database, wherein the request manager is capable of processing an information request to initiate at least one inquiry related to the information from the database;

a plurality of data tables developed from the database, which contains a plurality of responses collected from an information server, which gathers information from at least one remote server, to determine a solution set responsive to the at least one inquiry, wherein the solution set includes at least one of at least one airport, at least one airfare and at least one distance between at least one pair of airports; and

a client capable of displaying an electronic map upon which the solution set is overlaid.

9. (Original) The travel information system of claim 8, wherein at least one inquiry is directed to the data table selected from a group of data tables containing airfare, airfare availability; weather conditions, event schedules, points of interest, and lodging information.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the information server receives information from mainframe computer systems.

11. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the information request is input by a human being on a client computer and is pre-selected at least in part by topic by the client.

12. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the information request is parsed into a plurality of inquiries for querying the plurality of data tables.

13. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the information request is directed to the plurality of data tables generated from the database of information received from information providers.

14. (Original) A method for providing travel information, comprising:

receiving a request including a departure location;

generating a map including a set of points corresponding to the departure location and any airports having carrier service from the departure location to another location; and

transmitting the generated map.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of receiving the request includes specifying a location of interest and a distance range in proximity to the location of interest.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of receiving the request includes specifying a dollar limit.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of receiving the request includes specifying a number of travelers that will depart from the departure location.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the generating step includes accessing a database for a geocode corresponding to a destination of interest.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the generating step includes accessing a database for a plurality of city pairs and a lowest available fare associated with each of the plurality of city pairs.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the generating step includes querying the database with the geocode corresponding to a destination of interest to determine all airports and other locations within a specified range of the geocode.

21. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the generating step includes retrieving information from information providers and storing the retrieved information in a searchable database.

22. (Original) A method for a user to obtain travel information, comprising:

entering a request including a departure location; and

receiving a map generated to include a set of points corresponding to the departure location and any airports having carrier service from the departure location to another location.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of entering the request includes specifying a dollar limit.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of entering the request includes specifying a number of travelers that will depart from the departure location.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of entering the request includes specifying a location of interest and a specified distance range in proximity to the location of interest.

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the information request includes specifying a location of interest and a distance range in proximity to the location of interest.

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the information request includes specifying a dollar limit.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of receiving the information request includes specifying a number of travelers that will depart from the departure location.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the processing step includes accessing a database for a geocode corresponding to a destination of interest, the destination of interest being associated with an airport.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the processing step includes accessing a database for a plurality of city pairs and a lowest available fare associated with each of the plurality of city pairs, each city of a city pair being associated with an airport.

31. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the processing step includes querying the database with the geocode corresponding to a destination of interest to determine all airports and other locations within a specified range of the geocode.